

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A solid-state imaging device, comprising:
  - a plurality of second conductivity photoelectric converting regions
  - 5 formed on a surface region of a first conductivity semiconductor substrate or a first conductivity well;
  - a second conductivity CCD channel region provided adjacent to the photoelectric converting regions;
  - a first conductivity electric charge reading region provided between
  - 10 the photoelectric converting region and the CCD channel region;
  - a first conductivity device separation region provided on circumferences of the photoelectric converting regions excluding the reading region;
  - a plurality of first electric charge transfer electrodes provided on the
  - 15 CCD channel region; and
  - second electric charge transfer electrodes provided between the plurality of first electric charge transfer electrodes,
  - wherein the second electric charge transfer electrodes have an electrode length in an electric charge transfer direction longer than that of
  - 20 the first electric charge transfer electrodes, and function as an electric charge reading gate for reading electric charge from the photoelectric converting regions, and in the CCD channel region under the second electric charge transfer electrodes, a potential gradient deepening in the electric charge transfer direction is provided.
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2. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 1, wherein a first conductivity impurity is implanted into an upstream side portion in the electric charge transfer direction of the second conductivity CCD channel region under the second electric charge transfer electrodes, whereby at least
- 30 one step of potential level difference is provided.
3. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 2, wherein the first electric charge transfer electrodes are formed of a first electrode film layer, and one end of a region where the first conductivity impurity is implanted is
- 35 formed in a self-alignment manner with respect to an end of the first electric charge transfer electrode.

4. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 1, wherein a second conductivity impurity is implanted into a downstream side portion in the electric charge transfer direction of the second conductivity CCD channel region under the second electric charge transfer electrodes, whereby at least  
5 one step of potential level difference is provided.

5. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 4, wherein the first electric charge transfer electrodes are formed of a first electrode film layer, and one end of a region where the second conductivity impurity is implanted  
10 is formed in a self-alignment manner with respect to an end of the first electric charge transfer electrode.

6. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 1, wherein in the second conductivity CCD channel region under the second electric charge transfer  
15 electrodes, a first conductivity impurity is implanted into an upstream side portion in the electric charge transfer direction, and a second conductivity impurity is implanted into a downstream side portion in the electric charge transfer direction, whereby at least two steps of potential level differences are provided.

20 7. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 6, wherein the first electric charge transfer electrodes are formed of a first electrode film layer, and one end of a region where the first conductivity impurity and the second conductivity impurity are implanted is formed in a self-alignment manner  
25 with respect to an end of the first electric charge transfer electrode.

8. The solid-state imaging device according to claim 1, wherein an upstream side portion in the electric charge transfer direction of the first electric charge transfer electrodes on the CCD channel region is positioned in a gap between  
30 the photoelectric converting regions adjacent to each other in the electric charge transfer direction.